

Local RESTORE Council
February 10, 2014
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard and members Cal Bodenstein, Donna Tucker, Tony Alexander, Brian Watkins, Dave Robau, Rob Williamson, Greg Fountain and Buzz Eddy. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), the County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and the County Attorney (Angela Jones). The meeting was called to order by Lynchard at the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex, Board Room, at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the January 13, 2014 minutes.

Update on NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment), RESTORE, Gulf Consortium

Jeff Helms (Atkins North America, Inc.) gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). He gave a brief update of the recent Gulf Consortium Visioning Meeting he attended in Tallahassee. Helms said the Gulf Consortium has been hindered due to the fact that funding has not started to flow. He said he does not anticipate anything happening with the Gulf Consortium, in terms of funding, until the first of 2015.

Helms gave an update on a NRDA (Early Restoration) public meeting that was held on January 28, 2014 at the Pensacola Bay Center. He said this was the largest attended NRDA meeting with over 200 people in attendance. Helms said some of the big issues discussed were the fish hatchery, the lion fish and the Navarre Beach Park Gulf Side Walkover. He said the day of this meeting; the County received a notice from Audubon of Florida, stating opposition of the Navarre Beach Park project. Helms said there will be a meeting held this Wednesday to discuss some of these issues. Lynchard said the County wants to work with this group to salvage this project, if possible, or at least make sure that the funding stays in Santa Rosa County.

Robau asked Helms about an update for Triumph Gulf Coast. Helms said the only progress he is aware of is that they have named a Chairman and some members. He said he will look further into this and have more information at the next meeting.

Helms said he has been working on putting the project application together. He said he is going to submit this to County staff. Helms said he intends to bring this application back for review at the March meeting.

Williamson asked Helms if this Council is able to move forward with projects. Helms said as soon as the Department of Treasury's guidelines and application process is finalized, this Council can move forward with finalizing this County's multi-year plan. He said once this is done Santa Rosa County will be eligible to receive funds.

Review Guidelines for Presentations

Lynchard said the Council members have a copy of the guidelines which are based on discussion at the last meeting. Williamson asked if presentations will be vetted by staff before they come before the Council. Lynchard said yes.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the presentation guidelines.

Presentation by Center for Independent Living

Gloria Horning said she is representing the Center of Independent Living (CIL) and the Disability Resource Center. She said this is a non-profit center funded by the federal government. Horning said the Center provides many services to people with disabilities. She gave a power point presentation to the Council (Attachment in file). She said the CIL conducts surveys of the "built" environment which includes parking spaces, boat piers, hiking trails, etc. Horning said the past year the CIL has surveyed all the local beaches for ADA compliance. She said the CIL have also surveyed all the NRDA projects that have been and are being built. Horning said based on the surveys the CIL have many concerns regarding the accessibility of many of the projects being built in Santa Rosa, Escambia, Okaloosa and Walton Counties. She invited the Council to attend a Center for Independent Living meeting being held tomorrow (February 11, 2014) at 11:30 a.m. at the Ashbury Place. Horning said this meeting will be held

to discuss NRDA programs and accessibility not only for people with disabilities but minorities. She gave a list of recommendation from the CIL (Attachment in file). Horning said the CIL hopes to be a great team for the Santa Rosa County Local RESTORE Council. Lynchard said he would like to see the CIL as part of the RESTORE team. He said this Council certainly wants to make accessibility a component of all its projects.

Robau thanked Horning for bringing this awareness to the Council. He asked Horning about effective ways of communicating to the disabled population. Horning said the County should consider providing information to AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) magazines and to other tourism sources. She said people with disabilities are the number one minority in the world. Horning said the CIL provides assistance at no cost.

Public Forum

Barbara Albrecht said she is with the Audubon Society. She said without considering who might be using the beach already, the County has developed a boardwalk opportunity in an area that is already in use and may disturb the birds. Albrecht said the population is increasing and putting a lot of stress on natural resources. She said Audubon would like to work with the County Commissioners and the RESTORE Council on this issue. Albrecht said she suggest expanding the two existing walkovers and leave the bird nesting area alone.

Carol Tebay said the dunes on Navarre Beach have become severely eroded.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting adjourned.

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman